

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-21 and 23 are now present in the application. The specification and claims 1-9, 14-21 and 23 have been amended. Claims 22 and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 17 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The specification has been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 15 and 16 have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13 and 15-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corbett, U.S. Patent No. 1,409,082, in view of Nystad, U.S. Patent No. 2,957,251. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corbett in view of

Nystad, and further in view of Miller, U.S. Patent No. 2,957,251. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to recite a combination of elements including “a portion of a hollow globe-like body being formed by the plurality of elements without any underlying support structure, a plurality of gaps being formed between adjacent elements; wherein the gaps being along a set of longitude lines and latitude lines on the portion of the hollow globe-like body”. Support for the above combination of elements can be found in FIGs. 3, 4, 6 and 7. Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 17 is not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Corbett discloses a spherical globe including a plurality of triangular pieces or sectors (see FIGs. 1 and 6). Each piece or sector is bounded at its side by edge of the same dimensions (see page 1, lines 35-40). As shown in FIGs. 1 and 6 of Corbett, the gaps between two adjacent triangular pieces are not along longitude lines and latitude lines on the spherical body. Accordingly, Corbett fails to teach “a plurality of gaps being formed between adjacent elements; wherein the gaps being along a set of longitude lines and latitude lines on the portion of the hollow globe-like body” as recited in amended claims 1 and 14.

Nystad teaches an educational jigsaw globe puzzle including an upper section 18, a lower section 20, a plate 24 permanently secured to the upper section 18 by welding (col. 2, lines 37-41), a plate 30 permanently secured to the upper section 20 by welding (col. 2, lines 48-50), a plurality of segments 44 mounted onto the upper section 18 and the lower section 20 (see FIG 1),

a map 25 of the north polar region secured over the top of the plate 24 (col. 2, lines 42-44), and a map 31 of the south polar region secured over the top of the plate 30 (col. 2, lines 52-54).

The Examiner asserted that it would have been obvious to modify Corbett's pieces in view of Nystad's segments 44 to teach the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not have the motivation to modify Corbett in view of Nystad. Nystad discloses that the segments 44 are mounted onto the upper section 18 and the lower section 20 of the globe body. In other words, the segments 44 alone cannot form a hollow globe body without the support of the upper section 18 and the lower section 20. On other hand, Corbett's pieces are assembled to form a spherical body without support. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not have the motivation to modify Corbett's non-supported elements in view of Nystad's support-required elements. It would be impermissible hindsight based on Applicant's own disclosure to reconstruct the claim by incorporating these references directed to respective elements.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Miller, this reference has only been relied on for its teachings related to the subject matter of dependent claim 14. This reference also fails to disclose the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 17.

Accordingly, none of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 17 or their dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 17 and their dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

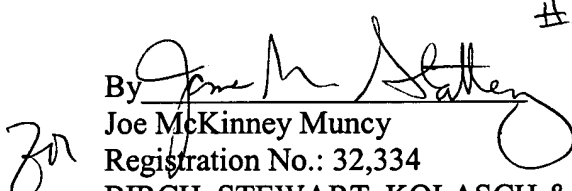
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$60.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

 #28380
Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

